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DRAFTED BY: EB:JMDERHAM

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SUBJECT: SOVIET-BULGARIAN FIVE-YEAR PLAN PROTOCOL: APPARENT WARNING
ON BULGARIAN ENERGY NEEDS

1. ALTHOUGH LITTLE HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED ON CONTENTS OF SOVIET-BULGARIAN PROTOCOL ON BILATERAL COORDINATION OF FIVE-YEAR PLANS SIGNED OCT 7 IN MOSCOW, BULGARIAN TELEGRAPH AGENCY (BTA) REPORT OF STATEMENTS AFTER THE SIGNING IS OF SIGNIFICANCE. STATEMENTS WERE MADE BY SOVIET DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND HEAD OF STATE PLANNING COMMITTEE NIKOLAY BAYBAKOV AND HIS BULGARIAN COUNTERPART KIRIL ZAREV. BOTH PLACE EMPHASIS ON SOVIET ROLE IN SATISFYING BULGARIA'S ENERGY REQUIREMENTS.

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2. ACCORDING TO BAYBAKOV, "GENERAL" DIRECTION OF

COOPERATION WILL BE TO GUARANTEE RAW MATERIALS "ABOVE ALL OIL AND GAS...VERY NECESSARY FOR BULGARIAN ECONOMY". HE STATED PLANS ARE BEING FORMULATED FOR BULGARIAN PARTICIPATION IN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIES IN SOVIET UNION, AND SAID THAT IN ADDITION TO OBTAINING SUPPLIES FROM THAT SOURCE, BULGARIANS ARE MAKING GREAT EFFORTS TO "FIND AND MAXIMIZE USE OF LOCAL SOURCES OF ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS." HE CONCLUDED RESOLUTION OF PROBLEM, "WHICH I CALL PROBLEM NUMBER ONE", IS PREREQUISITE WITHOUT WHICH DEVELOPMENT OF ANY OTHER BRANCH OF BULGARIAN ECONOMY IS "INCONCEIVABLE".

3. ZAREV IN TURN SAID PROTOCOL HAD GREAT IMPORTANCE IN ASSURING ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS FROM SOVIET UNION, AN IMPORTANT GUARANTEE FOR CONTINUATION OF HIGH AND STABLE GROWTH OF ECONOMY AND INCREASE IN PRODUCTION OF CONSUMER GOODS.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT OF SIGNING OF PROTOCOL WHICH APPEARED IN PRESS OCTOBER 8, WITHOUT GIVING DETAILS, CLAIMED THAT INCREASE IN SOVIET DELIVERIES OF COAL, NATURAL GAS, OIL, AND ELECTRIC POWER AS WELL AS TECHNICAL AID IN DEVELOPMENT OF ATOMIC POWER IN BULGARIA WOULD ENSURE ENERGY BALANCE OVER FIVE YEAR PERIOD. IT ALSO STATED PROTOCOL CALLED FOR FURTHER PROMOTION OF COOPERATION IN OIL AND GAS, MINING, METALLURGY, CELLULOSE-PAPER, MICRO-BIOLOGICAL, AND BUILDING INDUSTRIES AND STATED THAT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN SOVIET TECHNICAL AID IN BUILDING OF NEW PROJECTS AND REBUILDING OF OPERATING CAPACITIES IS ENVISAGED. PROTOCOL FURTHER CALLS FOR 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN BILATERAL TRADE OVER CURRENT FIVE-YEAR PLAN (TO REACH TOTAL OF 20 BILLION RUBLES), WITH TRADE IN MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE 1.8 TIMES.

5. COMMENT: BAYBAKOV'S COMMENTS, ALTHOUGH CAST IN POSITIVE TERMS, APPEAR TO INCLUDE WARNING TO BULGARIANS TO DEPEND LESS ON SOVIET UNION FOR ENERGY AND RAW MATERIAL NEEDS. APPEARANCE OF THESE COMMENTS IN PUBLIC PRESS SHOULD HAVE SOBERING EFFECT ON BULGARIAN OFFICIALS WHO TEND TO MAINTAIN THEY ARE ISOLATED FROM WORLD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ENERGY CRISIS BY RELATION WITH SOVIET UNION. EVEN DURING LAST YEAR, USSR SATISFIED ONLY PART -- ALTHOUGH AT LEAST THREE-QUARTERS -- OF BULGARIA'S OIL REQUIREMENTS.

6. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT BULGARIA, PARTICULARLY DURING NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN, CAN MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN SUPPLYING OWN ENERGY AND RAW MATERIALS NEEDS DESPITE EFFORTS MENTIONED BY BAYBAKOV. DEGREE TO WHICH BULGARIA

MAY HAVE TO INCREASE RESORT TO NON-SOVIET SUPPLIES OF
ENERGY IS NOT APPARENT FROM PRESS REPORTS, BUT IT IS
LIKELY THAT IN ANY CASE THERE WILL BE ADDITIONAL STRAINS
ON THE BULGARIAN ECONOMY WHICH MUST COMPENSATE DDURING
CURRENT YEAR FOR INCREASED COSTS OF SOVIET ENERGY AND
RAW MATERIALS.
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